



BEFORE: Rival skipper's, Wycombe's John Delaney (left) and Enfield's John Payne (right) toss up before kick off. In the middle is referee Ken Burns, who seven days earlier had been in charge as F.A. Cup holders, Chelsea went down to Manchester City.

Delaney is superb

By LANCE MASTERS

Wycombe 2, Enfield 1

JOHN DELANEY, the Tony Hateley of amateur football when it comes to heading a ball, rammed two glorious goals to end Enfield's reign as F.A. Amateur Cup holders.

It was a remarkable match-winning performance by Delaney, the tall, square-rigged Wycombe captain and centre-half, who was a doubtful starter with a leg injury

until just before the kick-off.

He headed the first goal from Powell's centre after 39 minutes darting forward on giant legs to connect amid a frenzy of arms and legs in a crowded penalty area. His second goal, four minutes later, was superb.

Horseman arched across a corner kick from the top of the notorious Loakes Park slope, which tilts steeply from side to side and Delaney soared so high he seemed to be climbing some invisible lamp-post before cracking the ball home.

Penalty saved

Enfield never fully recovered, although it could be argued that their demise began just before Wycombe's first goal when Duggan had a penalty kick saved by Maskell.

Certainly they lacked conviction until Gray scrambled a goal seven minutes from the end to rekindle faint hopes of saving the match.

There were long periods in this fascinating duel—how sad it could not have had the status and setting of a Wembley final—in which Enfield dominated in midfield, yet they were rarely able to create clear chances in front of goal.

Moffatt, Gray and Payne deserved better than to finish losers, but Wycombe had spasms of fluency, broke more effectively from defence and, above all, they had the 6 ft. 2 in. grasshopper called Delaney.

Wycombe: Wands.: J. Maskell; Fuschillo, K. Blunt; E. Powell, J. Delaney, I. Rundle; B. Bremer, J. Hutchinson, K. Searle, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman.

Enfield: A. Williams; L. Tilley, B. Moffatt; J. Payne, P. Betson, M. Smith; C. Duggan, A. Gibson, J. Brookes, K. Gray, T. Turley.

Referee: K. Burns (Stourbridge).



DURING: The pressure's off, but this Enfield team isn't beaten yet seems to be the thought behind the expressions of assistant manager John Reardon, manager Brian Lee, substitute Vince Faulkner and trainer Jock Shephard as they watch at the start of the second half.



AFTER: With 90 minutes hard slog behind them, Wycombe and Enfield players walk back up the tunnel to their dressing rooms. The home crowd cheer in their heroes, but for winners and losers a long, hot shower must be to the forefront of their thoughts. After all, it was mighty muddy out there.